

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4920

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10426

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, IN  
SUBJ: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY: MEETING WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER VAJPAYEE

SUMMARY: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HAD A LONG FRIENDLY AND  
SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW OF US-INDIA RELATIONS AND WORLD PRO-  
BLEMS WITH INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE, FOREIGN  
SECRETARY MEHTA AND OTHER INDIAN OFFICIALS ON THE AFTER-  
NOON OF JULY 23. VAJPAYEE CONTINUED THE INDIAN EMPHASIS  
IN EARLIER TALKS ON INDIA'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS  
WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. HE DESCRIBED THE MODERATING ROLE  
WHICH INDIA TRIED TO PLAY IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE  
AND NOTED INDIAN APPREHENSIONS REGARDING THE SITUATION IN  
RHODESIA, STATING THAT INDIA WAS UNDER PRESSURE TO OFFER  
MORE HELP TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. HE WELCOMED THE  
CHANGED US POSITION ON THE ADMISSION OF VIET NAM TO THE  
UN. REPLYING, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MADE A BROAD REVIEW  
OF US FOREIGN POLICY AND OUR ANALYSIS OF TROUBLE SPOTS  
AROUND WORLD. CITING AN EARLIER STATEMENT BY THE  
FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT MORAL VALUES WE SHARED, HE DESCRIBED  
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HOW THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS SEEKING TO PUT ITS  
MORAL VALUES INTO ACTION THROUGH INITIATIVES ON STRATEGIC  
ARMS LIMITATIONS, CONTROL OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER,  
LIMITATION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, AND PROTECTION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS. RESPONDING TO VAJPAYEE'S INQUIRIES,  
HE THEN MADE A DETAILED PRESENTATION OF US VIEWS ON THE  
MIDDLE EAST, RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, ETHIOPIA,

THE EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE, VIET NAM AND CHINA. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING WAS PARTICULARLY WARM AND IT MARKED AN IMPORTANT STAGE OF IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. END SUMMARY

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER MET FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF WITH INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY VAJPAYEE JULY 23. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY AND BY AMBASSADOR GOHEEN AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS. THE INDIAN SIDE INCLUDED FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA AND OTHER SENIOR MEA OFFICIALS. THIS SESSION FOLLOWED A VERY FRIENDLY LUNCH GIVEN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN HONOR OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AS WHICH TOASTS EXTOLLING THE PROSPECTS FOR STRONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WERE EXCHANGED (TEXTS SEPTTEL).

2. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, VAJPAYEE RECALLED THAT SOON AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER HAD TAKEN OFFICE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA HAD DEMONSTRATED THROUGH ELECTIONS THEIR FAITH IN DEMOCRATIC NORMS. THE NEW INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD RESTORED DEMOCRACY, THUS CARRYING OUT THAT PART OF THE MANDATE GIVEN IT BY THE PEOPLE. IT WAS NOW CONCENTRATING ON ECONOMIC ISSUES.

3. DISCUSSING FOREIGN POLICY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSED THE EFFORTS THE NEW INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, AND EMPHASIZED INDIA'S INTEREST IN STABILITY IN THE REGION. HE SAID THAT A GOOD DEAL OF PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE, CALLING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE FRUITFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS HE HAD RECENTLY HAD WITH THE LEADERS OF NEPAL DURING HIS VISIT THERE AND THE HEADWAY MADE WITH BANGLADESH IN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE FARRAKA BARAGE PROBLEM. HE NOTED THAT BUT FOR INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES WITHIN PAKISTAN, THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION OF INDO-PAK RELATIONS WOULD HAVE GONE AHEAD FURTHER. HE SAID THAT INDIA WISHED PAKISTAN WELL, AND HAD SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED GIVING EVEN THE IMPRESSION OF INTERFERING THERE DURING PAKISTAN'S DIFFICULT TIMES. HE NOTED THAT AS A DEMOCRACY WHICH HAD RESTORED HUMAN RIGHTS, INDIA WOULD PREFER TO SEE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PREVAIL EVERYWHERE. BUT IT WAS PREPARED TO COEXIST WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS, AND FELT THAT EVERY COUNTRY HAD A RIGHT TO HAVE THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT ITS PEOPLE WANTED.

4. TOUCHING ON RELATIONS WITH CHINA, VAJPAYEE NOTED THAT STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TOWARD NORMALIZATION. TRADE LINKS HAD BEEN RECENTLY RESTORED, INDIAN JOURNALISTS

HAD GONE TO CHINA, AND CHINESE CULTURAL DELEGATIONS WERE EXPECTED TO VISIT INDIA. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE PROCESS WOULD CONTINUE AND WOULD LEAD TO A SOLUTION OF ALL SINO-INDIAN PROBLEMS INCLUDING THE BORDER PROBLEM. FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA INTERVENED TO SAY THAT THE PROCESS WOULD BE A LONG ONE, AND VAJPAYEE READILY AGREED.

5. VAJPAYEE RECALLED MEETING SECRETARY VANCE AT THE CEIEC SESSION IN PARIS AND NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE SECRETARY'S EARNESTNESS IN HIS EFFORTS TO KEEP THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE GOING. HE SAID THAT THE GOI WISHED TO PLY A MODERATING AND BALANCING ROLE IN THAT DIALOGUE. IT BELIEVED THAT COOPERATION AND NOT CONFRONTATION COULD LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN

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RICH AND POOR NATIONS, AND PLEDGED THAT INDIA WOULD PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH IN KEEPING UP THE DIALOGUE. HE NOTED THAT WHENEVER THE OCCASION AROSE THE GOI SOUGHT TO IMPRESS ON ITS FELLOW MEMBERS IN THE GROUP OF 77 THAT MERE RESOLUTIONS OR BRAVE SPEECHES WOULD NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT PATIENCE WAS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF BOTH THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND URGED THAT IF A SERIOUS ATTEMPT WERE MADE TO REACH THE 0.7 PERCENT GNP FIGURE FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SET FOR 1980 THIS WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO.

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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6. TURNING TO THE MIDEAST, VAJPAYEE SAID THAT THERE WAS A GROWING DEMAND IN INDIA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HE SAID THAT IF A SOLUTION TO THE MIDEAST PROBLEM COULD BE REACHED THROUGH THE CALLING OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION, THIS WOULD MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR THE GOI. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, VAJPYEE EXPRESSED APPREHENSION ABOUT THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA. HE ASKED WHAT THE "BIG POWERS" WOULD DO IF EFFORTS TO BRING SMITH TO AGREE TO A SOLUTION FAILED, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE GOI WAS UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO DO MORE TO HELP THE FREE-DOM FIGHTERS AND FRONT LINE STATES. ON SOUTHEAST ASIA, HE DECLARED INDIA'S SUPPORT FOR ASEAN AND SAID THAT THE INDIANS WISHED TO EXPAND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, BUT NOTED INDIA'S SIZE APPEARED TO CREATE A PROBLEM FOR COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. HE WELCOMED VIETNAM'S ADMISSION INTO THE UN AND THE CHANGED US POSITION ON THIS.

7. REPLYING TO VAJPAYEE, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY RECALLED THAT EARLIER IN THE DAY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HE HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE MORAL VALUES THEY SHARED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SAID THAT THE REAL ISSUE WAS HOW TO  
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PUT THESE MORAL VALUES INTO ACTION. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT THIS SUMMED UP IN THE BROADEST SENSE THE CHALLENGE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SENSED, AND CITED FOUR AREAS WHERE THE ADMINISTRATION WAS SEEKING TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE:

(A) RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND, PARTICULARLY, THE EFFORT TO DEVELOP A SALT AGREEMENT WHICH INCLUDED SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN THE LEVEL OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS.

(B) CONVENTIONAL ARMS POLICY, WHICH HAS BEEN CHANGED SO THAT THE PRESUMPTION IS NOW AGAINST TRANSFERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH INTRODUCE NEW LEVELS OF TECHNOLOGICAL SOPHISTICATION IN REGIONS.

(C) NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, A MATTER WHICH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID DEPUTY TO THE UNDER SECRETARY NYE WOULD BE DISCUSSING AT GREATER LENGTH WITH THE GOI SHORTLY.

(D) HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY DEFINED AS INCLUDING ASSURANCE THAT PEOPLE'S MINIMUM NEEDS WERE MET, THAT THEY PARTICIPATED IN THE CHOICE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THEY WERE NOT SUBJECT TO TORTURE OR PROLONGED

IMPRISONMENT. HE MENTIONED THAT PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AND THE SHARING OF TECHNOLOGY ASSO FIT INTO THIS EFFORT TO EXPAND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ORDER TO PUT MORAL VALUES INTO ACTION.

8. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED IN ETAIL TO VAJPAYEE'S REQUEST FOR US ASSESSMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. HE REVIEWED THE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, CITING THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A SETTLEMENT. HE REPORTED THAT THE MEETINGS CONFIDENTIAL

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OF PRESIDENT CARTER WITH PRIME MINITER BEGIN CREATED PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO AND PRODUCED PROPOSALS FOR PROCEDURES AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE BUT NO AGREEMENT. VAJPAYEE QUESTIONED THE DEPUTY SECRETARY CLOSELY ABOUT THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, REFERRING TO THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE USSR'S FRIEND, IRAQ. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT IT WAS OUR VIEW THE SOVIETS WANTED BOTH A GENEVA CONFERENCE AND PERHAPS ALSO A SETTLEMENT. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THEN REVIEWED IN DETAIL US POLICIES AND PROSPECTS REGARDING RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. HE SHARED VAJPAYEE'S APPREHENSIONS REGARDING THE FORMER AND FOUND MORE ENCOURAGEMENT CONCERNING THE LATTER. THE INDIAN SIDE MADE THE INTERESTING POINT REGARDING NAMIBIA THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD SUPPORT SWAPO BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE THE SPLITTING OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT AS HAD HAPPENED IN RHODESIA AND ANGOLA THUS REDUCING THE POSSIBILITY OF A SETTLEMENT. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW THEN COVERED ETHIOPIA AND THE EGYPTIAL-LIBYAN DISPUTE AND TURNED TO AN EXPOSITION OF MAJOR US STEPS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND OUR INABILITY TO PROVIDE REPARATIONS AS A CONDITION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

9. IN A BRIEF FURTHER DISCUSSION OF CHINA, THE INDIANS SAID IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT NOTHING WAS HAPPENING ON THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER AND THAT BOTH SIDES WERE RESPECTING THE LINE OF CONTROL. ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS OF US-PRC RELATIONS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE WAS RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY FORECAST UNTIL THE SECRETARY HAD VISITED CHINA IN AUGUST.  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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